

BREAKS INTERSTATE PARK COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

March 11, 2004

The chairman called the Breaks Interstate Park Commission meeting to order at 12:55 p.m.

Commission members present were:

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| Chairman Jack Sykes | Kentucky |
| Vice-Chairman Willard Owens | Virginia |
| Mr. Walter Fletcher | Kentucky |
| Mr. James O'Quinn | Virginia |
| Mr. Chris Ratliff, proxy, | Kentucky |
| Mr. Ishmael Richardson, proxy | Virginia |
| Mr. John Paul, proxy | Kentucky |

Mr. Chris Ratliff served as proxy for Kentucky Lieutenant Governor Stephen B. Pence who was unable to attend. Mr. John Paul served as proxy for Kentucky Commissioner of Parks George Ward, who was unable to attend. Mr. Ishmael Richardson served as proxy for Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Director Joe Maroon, who was unable to attend.

One commission member, Mr. Andrew Mullins, Virginia, was unable to attend.

Mr. Herman Lester, park attorney from Kentucky, and Mr. Chris Chrisman, Summit Engineering, Lexington Kentucky, were guests at the meeting.

The minutes of the November 13th meeting were approved as written, Mr. Walter Fletcher made the motion and Mr. Jim O'Quinn seconded, all members voted aye.

Superintendent Mullins gave a report on the February financial statement. Mr. Walter Fletcher made a motion to approve and Mr. Willard Owens seconded the motion. All members voted aye.

Superintendent Mullins reported that visitation for the 2003 season was down approximately 13 % from the previous year. Mr. Walter Fletcher commented that visitation was down at the events held in Pikeville last year also. Mr. Ishmael Richardson said that visitation was down at all the Virginia state parks last year.

Superintendent Mullins ask for a 3.5 % cost of living raise for the park salaried employees. Mr. Jim O'Quinn made a motion to approve this request and Mr. Walter Fletcher seconded. Mr. Chris Ratliff was concerned about giving a raise when visitation and sales were down. Mr. John Paul said the Kentucky employees were only going to receive a 1.5-% increase in pay. When the chairman ask for a vote, Mr. Chris Ratliff and Mr. John Paul abstained, all other members voted aye. The motion passed.

Superintendent Mullins touched briefly on the kayaker that drowned in the Russell Fork River. The Commissioners requested to be notified should anything happen like that again or anything that would gain media attention in the future. Many people call and ask the Commissioners questions about such occurrences and they need to be kept up to date.

Superintendent Mullins reported on the 2003 Mountain Top Lights. The decrease in visitation had also affected the income received from the lights. However, Breaks Interstate Park was able to finish paying Pike County Chamber of Commerce for the light displays. The Commissioners requested that Superintendent Mullins work up a program on promoting the lights for the 2004 season and have it ready for them to review at the June meeting.

Mr. Jim O'Quinn made a motion for the Breaks Interstate Park Commission to go into executive session, under VA Code 2.2-3711 A.3 to discuss the acquisition of real property for a public purpose. Mr. Walter Fletcher seconded. The executive session began at 1:20 p.m. All members voted aye.

Mr. Walter Fletcher made a motion to end the executive session and Mr. Chris Ratliff seconded. The executive session ended at 1:55 p.m. All members voted aye.

Each member of the Breaks Interstate Park Commission certified the only subject that was discussed in executive session was public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under VA Code Chapter 2.2-3711 A.3. A roll call vote as follows:

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| Mr. Jack Sykes | yes |
| Mr. Willard Owens | yes |
| Mr. Jim O'Quinn | yes |
| Mr. Ishmael Richardson | yes |
| Mr. Chris Ratliff | yes |
| Mr. John Paul | yes |
| Mr. Walter Fletcher | yes |

During the executive session, the Breaks Interstate Park Commissioners discussed two separate issues: 1.)Acquisition of two tracts of property from landowners, Mr. Steve Ratliff and Mr. Paul Ratliff. The Commissioners had an appraisal on this property performed by Mr. Robert A. Damron. Mr. Walter Fletcher made a

motion, authorizing park attorney, Mr. Herman Lester, to negotiate with these gentlemen up to the appraisal amount. Mr. Willard Owens seconded. All members voted aye. 2.) Regarding acquisition surface rights from the Elswick heirs. The Commission wishes to buy the surface rights, with an understanding that the Elswick heirs retain their gas rights. Mr. Walter Fletcher made a motion authorizing Mr. Herman Lester to send them a written offer of \$200,000.00 for surface rights on 500 acres in the Potter Flats area. Mr. Willard Owens seconded the motion and all members voted aye.

Mr. Chris Chrisman, Summit Engineering, presented to the Commission conceptual plans for improvements at the Center Creek Area, Unknown Soldiers' Grave, Overlook Picnic Area and the Ratliff Hole. The Commission discussed each item at length and Mr. Chrisman will have the plans ready to go to bid by the June meeting date. Mr. Owens is going to contact the Buchanan County Sons of the Confederate regarding taking care of the Unknown Soldiers' Grave.

Lodging prices were discussed for 2005. Mr. John Paul said that Kentucky was doing well by increasing their rates \$5.00 on Friday, Saturday nights and also on holiday weekends, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. They were actually seeing an increase on the Monday-Thursday visitors. Mr. Willard Owens made a motion for the Breaks Interstate Park Motor Lodge to increase motel rates, beginning the 2005 season, \$5.00 per night on Friday and Saturday nights, beginning Memorial Day up through Labor Day, and the month of October. The extra \$5.00 will also be Friday, Saturday and Sunday for holidays. Mr. Walter Fletcher seconded. All members voted aye.

The Breaks Interstate Park Commission elected Mr. Andrew Mullins as the new treasurer. Mr. Jim O'Quinn made the motion and Mr. Willard Owens seconded. All members voted aye.

The Commissioner discussed hiring a facilitator. Mr. James O'Quinn volunteered to work with Superintendent Mullins on this. He thought there might be some agencies in Richmond that would help the Commission, without having to hire a facilitator. Mr. Chris Ratliff said he would also check with Kentucky agencies.

The next meeting will be June 10th, 2004, at the Breaks Interstate Park. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon and the meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Willard Owens closed the meeting with prayer. Meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.